

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A milking device comprising at least a teat receiving flexible sleeve, adapted to be positioned on/over a teat, wherein at least a first portion thereof comprises a thermoplastic vulcanisate (TPV) comprising a thermoplastic continuous phase and a cross-linked rubber discontinuous phase material, ~~selected from the group consisting of i) thermo-plastic elastomers (TPE), as defined in ISO 18064, ii) plasticized PVC, iii) Vinyl TPE, said material or combination of materials~~ exhibiting the following properties:

- a) a hardness between 25 shore A and 50 shore D;
- b) a Young's modulus between 0.1 MPa and 50 MPa;
- c) a tensile strength above 0.5 MPa; and
- d) a minimum elongation of 50% without breakage.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The milking device as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the discontinuous phase comprises a butadiene rubber; silicone; EPDM; or NBR optionally grafted with acrylates or anhydrides, or a combination of any or all of these.

4. (currently amended) The milking device as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the rubber is selected from the group consisting of nitrile rubber, styrene-butadiene rubber, butyl rubber, halo-butyl rubber, ethylene-propylene rubber, polyisoprene, polychloroprene, polybutene copolymers, and chlorosulfonated polyethylene.

5. (currently amended) The milking device as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the continuous phase comprises a crystalline polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, or copolymers, and mixtures thereof.

6. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A milking device as
~~claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least a teat receiving~~
flexible sleeve, adapted to be positioned on/over a teat, wherein
at least a first portion thereof comprises a thermo-plastic
elastomers (TPE) exhibiting the following properties:

- a) a hardness between 25 shore A and 50 shore D;
- b) a Young's modulus between 0.1 MPa and 50 MPa;
- c) a tensile strength above 0.5 MPa; and
- d) a minimum elongation of 50% without breakage,

wherein at least a further portion ~~comprising~~ comprises a TPE material different from that of the first portion.

7. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first portion comprises a core material, and wherein said further portion is at least a partial surface coating on said core material.

8. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the core material has a $\tan \delta < 0,20$.

9. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the core material is an SBS or SEBS, and the surface coating is an EPDM based TPV or NBR.

10. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 6, wherein said first portion is made from a material exhibiting a higher stiffness/hardness than said further portion.

11. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 10, wherein the material exhibiting a higher stiffness/hardness is a hard EPDM based TPV or a hard NBR based TPV, TPU, TPA or TEEE, and the softer part is a soft EPDM based TPV or a soft NBR based TPV.

12. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 1, exhibiting a service temperature between -60 and +200°C.

13-16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material or combination of materials is resistant to chlorine, ozone and to UV irradiation and thermal oxidation.

18. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 1, wherein said material or combination of materials exhibits a tear strength between 5 and 50 kN/m.

19. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tensile strength of said material or combination of materials is 0.5-40 MPa.

20. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the elongation of said material or combination of materials is more than 200% before breakage.

21. (currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~A milking device ~~as claimed in claim 1, which is~~ comprising:

a head portion (22);
a sleeve (24), and
a separate milk tube (26), connectable with the sleeve
(24) adapted to be positioned on/over a teat in a close fit
a teat ~~cup liner~~ receiving flexible sleeve, adapted to
be positioned on/over a teat in a close fit, wherein at least a
first portion thereof comprises a thermo-plastic elastomers (TPE)
exhibiting the following properties:

- a) a hardness between 25 shore A and 50 shore D;
- b) a Young's modulus between 0.1 MPa and 50 MPa;
- c) a tensile strength above 0.5 MPa; and
- d) a minimum elongation of 50% without breakage.

22. (currently amended) The milking device as claimed in claim [[21]] 1, which is a teat cup liner, adapted to be positioned on/over a teat in a close fit, comprising a head portion (22), a sleeve (24) and a milk tube (26) integrated in a unitary structure.

23-27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 5, wherein the polyolefin is selected from the group consisting of HDPE, LDPE, and LLDPE.

29. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 18, wherein said material or combination of materials exhibits a tear strength between 15-35 kN/m.

30. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 19, wherein the tensile strength of said material or combination of materials is 5-20 MPa.

31. (previously presented) The milking device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the elongation of said material or combination of materials is more than 300% before breakage.